

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CARACA 01451 061800Z

11

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02

INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 AF-04 EUR-08 EB-03 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /055 W

----- 089961

R 061523Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1894

S E C R E T CARACAS 1451

LIMDIS

EO 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR VE

SUBJ: VENEZUELAN-CUBAN RELATIONS

REF : CARACAS 1212

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT PERZ HAS PUBLICLY DESCRIBED VENEZUELA'S RELATIONS WITH CUBA AS NORMAL AND HAS HELD OUT THE HOPE THAT ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES CAN BE STRENGTHENED. AT THE SAME TIME HE HAS CAUTIOUSLY BUT POINTEDLY CRITICIZED CUBA'S INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AS CONTRARY TO LATIN AMERICAN PRINCIPLES. THE PRESIDENT'S PROBLEM IS THAT HE WANTS CUBA OUT OF ANGOLA BUT FEARS THAT THE ISSUE WILL BE DIVISIVE IN LATIN AMERICA AND A THREAT TO THE REGIONAL SOLIDARITY HE SETS SUCH GREAT STORE BY. WE DOUBT THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED AT THIS POINT TO JOIN IN A PUBLIC DENUNCIATION OF THE CUBAN ACTION OR TO SUPPORT OAS CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU, VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON RELATIONS WITH CUBA. ON JAN 30, FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH TRUDEAU, PEREZ STATED THAT RELATIONS WITH CUBA WERE "PERFECTLY NORMAL." HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT VENEZUELA AND CUBA WOULD EXPAND THEIR ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS AND COULD COLLABORATE TO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CARACA 01451 061800Z

ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW NATIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN. PEREZ

SAID THAT INTERNATIONAL IDEOLOGICAL COMPETITION WAS DESIREABLE, BUT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT DEMOCRACY WOULD PREVAIL IN "OUR LATIN AMERICAN WORLD." HE HOPED THAT LIFE IN LATIN AMERICA WOULD CARRY ON "WITHOUT VIOLENCE," AND THAT EACH LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY WOULD RESPECT THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION OF ALL NATIONS, "ON OUR CONTINENT AND OUTSIDE OUR CONTINENT,"

2. AT THE STATE DINNER FOR TRUDEAU, PRESIDENT PEREZ INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE IN HIS TOAST:

QUOTE - IN VENEZUELA AS IN ALL LATIN AMERICA
WE WANT AND NEED A PEACEFUL WORLD. FOR THAT REASON
WE ARE AGAINST ANY ACTION THAT WOULD INVOLVE US IN
INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICTS OR LEAD US TO INTERVENTION
IN THE INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF OTHER COUNTRIES,
WHETHER IN THIS HEMISPHERE OR OUTSIDE. INTERNATIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY DEMANDS THAT THE GREAT POWERS AND THE
MEDIUM-SIZED OR SMALL COUNTRIES NOT INTERFERE IN THE
DECISIONS OF ANY NATION. LATIN AMERICA DOES NOT WANT
TO IDENTIFY ITSELF WITH ANY ARMED CONFLICT. IT IS MOST
LAMENTABLE THAT ONLY FIVE MONTHS AFTER THE SIGNING
OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL
DISTURBANCES HAVE ARISEN THAT IMPEDE RATHER THAN FAVOR
DETENTE. END QUOTE

3. COMMENT: THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS LAST SUNDAY DESCRIBED THE LATTER PASSAGE AS A STRONG AND "CATEGORIC" STATEMENT OF THE GOV'S OPPOSITION TO CUBA'S ANGOLA ADVENTURE. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE CUBANS ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE MUCH IMPRESSED IF THEY DO HAPPEN TO COME ACROSS THIS UNPUBLICIZED TEXT.

4. PRESIDENT PEREZ IS CAUGHT IN SOMETHING OF A DILEMMA ON THE ANGOLA ISSUE. HE IS OUTRAGED BY THE CUBAN INTERVENTION BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, WANTS TO PRESERVE LATIN AMERICAN HARMONY AS ESSENTIAL TO HIS KEY POLICY GOAL OF REGIONAL SOLIDARITY ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES. THUS HE EQUIVOCATES, TALKING ABOUT EXPANDED RELATIONS WITH CUBA WHILE DISCREETLY CRITICIZING THE INTERVENTION. WE DOUBT THAT AT THIS POINT HE IS READY TO JOIN IN ANY VIGOROUS PUBLIC DENUNCIATION OF THE CUBAN ACTION. IN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CARACA 01451 061800Z

FACT, HE PROBABLY HOPES THAT THE ISSUE CAN SOMEHOW BE MUTED OR RESOLVED WITHIN THE LATIN AMERICAN FAMILY SO THAT UNITY PREVAILS WHEN THE CHIEFS OF STATE MEET NEXT JUNE IN PANAMA. THIS ANALYSIS CAUSES US TO DOUBT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS SPEAKING WITH ANY AUTHORITY--OR WITH ANY REAL REFLECTION ON HIS COUNTRY'S BASIC FOREIGN POLICY--WHEN HE TOLD ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS THAT THE ANGOLA PROBLEM SHOULD BE DEBATED IN THE OAS END COMMENT.
SHLAUDEMAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTERVENTION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA01451
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760047-0427
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760276/aaaacofn.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 CARACAS 1212
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <01 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VENEZUELAN-CUBAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, VE, CU, AO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006